

8/18/01

This five mhz band is a long awaited band for me. I am really pleased that the ARRL has finally petitioned the FCC for it. Obviously I am VERY enthusiastic about getting the band. Not only does it fill the gap between 80 and 40 meters, it will open up the main and typically the optimum useable frequency for daytime operation for all of those hams who are using Near Vertical Incident Skywave (NVIS) antennas for potential emergency communications. It will allow us to use the NVIS concept to its maximum capability. This is especially true at my location. Bakersfield is 75 miles West of Ridgecrest with the Sierra Nevada Mountain range in between. During the bottom of the sunspot cycle and sometimes during other parts of the cycle we can't reach Bakersfield. During an emergency or disaster we need to contact our emergency coordinator and the Kern county Office of Emergency Services for emergency operations. The creation of a 60 meter band for us will considerably increase the likelihood of maintaining contact with our main "source" of emergency communications.

Thanks,

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